

Serial No. 10/672,216
Group Art Unit: 3637

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his careful review of the present application. Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action and cited references. In the present Response, claims 1, 10, 12, 14, and 21 are amended. Claims 2 and 13 are cancelled. Therefore, claims 1, 3-12, and 14-22 remain pending. No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 10, 12, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,132,019). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

As presented, independent claims 1 and 12 incorporate the limitations of now-canceled claims 2 and 13, respectively. As such, claims 1 and 12 require at least that "said window has two opposite sides, said rail unit including a pair of opposite first rails, each of which defines a first guiding groove that is disposed adjacent to a respective one of said opposite sides of said window, said window panel having two opposite sides, each of which has opposite top and bottom ends, said window panel being formed with a pair of first studs that respectively project from said top ends of said opposite sides of said window panel into said first guiding grooves in said first rails." One example of such a feature is shown in FIG. 2 of the present application. Applicant asserts that Kim et al. does not teach or suggest at least this feature.

Applicant observes that Kim et al. discloses a housing (1) provided with a frame (50) and a carriage (6) and formed with a window covered by a door (3). See, e.g., FIG. 8 of Kim et al. As shown, the frame (50) is disposed below the window, and is formed with two opposite slots (52, 53). The door (3) is pivoted to an upper portion of the carriage (6). A lower portion of the carriage (6) is formed with pints (studs) (11-14) that engage the respective slots (guiding grooves) (52, 53) in the frame (50) so as to permit movement of the door (3) relative to the housing (1).

Applicant asserts that Kim et al. specifically does not disclose or suggest formation of studs directly on the window panel. Applicant notes that by forming the studs (241) directly on the window panel (23) of this invention, the carriage required in Kim et al. can be dispensed with. Moreover, the space in the interior volume of the housing required to accommodate the door and the carriage in Kim et al. is much larger as compared to the space required for

Serial No. 10/672,216
Group Art Unit: 3637

accommodating the window panel (23) as claimed with respect to the present invention. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection of claims 1 and 12.

Regarding claims 10 and 21, Applicant notes that these claims as presented require a second friction member "provided on a respective one of said opposite sides of said window panel between a respective one of said first studs and a respective one of said second studs". One possible example of such a feature can be seen in FIGS. 2, 5. Applicant notes that Kim et al. fails to teach this feature as well.

Applicant observes that the second friction member (7) of Kim et al. is provided on the carriage (6) and protrudes therefrom in a normal direction relative to the window. Applicant contrasts this with claims 10 and 21 of the present application, which require that the second friction member (252) is provided on the respective side of the window panel (23) within a space between the respective first and second studs (241, 242). Applicant notes that the configuration disclosed in Kim et al. requires an extra space in the housing (1) for accommodating the second friction member (7) as compared to the second friction member (252) claimed in this invention. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10 and 21.

Claims 3-11 depend upon independent claim 1, and as such inherit all of the limitations included in that claim. Similarly, claims 14-22 depend upon independent claim 12, and inherit all of the limitations of that claim. Applicant asserts that for at least this reason, these claims are allowable, and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3-11 and 14-22.

Serial No. 10/672,216
Group Art Unit: 3637

Conclusion

Applicant asserts that the claims as currently presented are allowable, and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: 3 April 2006



Brian H. Batzli
Reg. No. 32,960
BBATZLI:AJL/dc